



Ontario Agri Business Association

Suite 104, 160 Research Lane, Guelph, Ontario N1G 5B2

Phone: 519-822-3004 Fax: 519-822-8862

February 10, 2022

Hon. Caroline Mulroney
Minister of Transportation
777 Bay Street, 5th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1Z8

Hon. Lisa Thompson
Minister of Agriculture, Food and Rural Affairs
77 Grenville Street, 11th Floor
Toronto, ON M7A 1B3

Re: Closing of Ambassador Bridge

Dear Ministers Thompson and Mulroney:

The Ontario Agri Business Association (OABA) is the provincial trade association that represents the interests of the crop input, country and terminal grain elevators, livestock feed mills and allied business operating out of approximately 500 locations throughout Ontario representing \$15.2 Billion in annual sales.

OABA is writing to voice our concerns regarding the closing of the Ambassador Bridge on February 8, 2022. The Ambassador Bridge is the busiest trade crossing in North America and is critical to both the Ontario and Canadian Agri-food sector. Specifically, the livestock sector utilizes the border crossing to transport both livestock and feed ingredients between Canada and the United States.

Over the past several days our sector has experienced significant delays in the transportation of livestock (swine) and various perishable agricultural commodities from Canada into the United States, and the importation of vital feed ingredients such as soymeal and mineral additives from the United States into Canada. The delays are placing a heavy burden on alternative border crossings and our members have experienced delays at the Sarnia/Port Huron crossing that range from 6-8 hours. When combined with limited driver service hours, we are experiencing significantly increased transport freight rates for non-perishable products and greatly restricted livestock transport due to animal welfare concerns with livestock being on trucks for extended periods of time.

The agri-food value chain has shown remarkable resilience over the past two years as the sector has navigated the pandemic. The closing of the Ambassador Bridge due to a protestor blockade has resulted in crippling the movement of essential agricultural products through established transportation corridors. Any further delays are expected to further intensify congestion at alternative border crossings, significantly increase transportation costs that ultimately result in even higher food prices at the consumer level, and pose serious financial harm to the many agri businesses that choose to invest and do business in Ontario.

"Representing the Crop Input, Grain and Feed Industry"
www.oaba.on.ca



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We whole heartedly support any groups rights to conduct a peaceful protest, but the current bridge blockade by protestors blocking essential infrastructure is unacceptable. OABA requests that federal and provincial governments take the necessary actions to ensure that the Ambassador Bridge border crossing is restored immediately and are ready to provide whatever assistance may be required.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Russel Hurst". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a prominent "R" and "H".

Russel Hurst
Executive Director
Ontario Agri Business Association